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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR/East Germany

REPORT

SUBJECT Wismut A.G.

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1. Wismut A. G. is a USSR organization responsible for the procurement and processing of uranium ore. The activities of Wismut A. G. are kept in strict secrecy, but in spite of this, its task is rather well known to the people associated with GUSIMZ and the MVD.

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Until mid-1951 its Main Administration was probably directly subordinate to the MGB; it was located in the central part of Moscow in an unobtrusive building close to the Yauza River. In mid-1951 Wismut A. G. was subordinated to GUSIMZ and its Main Administration was transferred to the GUSIMZ building opposite the Kursk Railroad Station in Moscow. The premises of the GUSIMZ building into which Wismut A. G. moved had been occupied by the Chief Directorate of Corrective Labor Camps (Glavnoye upravleniye ispravotel'no-trudovymi lageryami) of the MVD (housed in this building temporarily) which had to vacate their offices to Wismut A. G.

2. In mid-1951, when the decision was made to subordinate Wismut A. G. to GUSIMZ, the Eighth Directorate (Vos'moye upravleniye GUSIMZa) of GUSIMZ was organized. Its responsibility was the administration of Wismut A. G.

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It might even be that the Eighth Directorate replaced Wismut A. G., or assumed responsibilities assigned to the Main Administration of Wismut in Moscow.

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the relationship of the Eighth Directorate and Wismut A. G. was similar to the relationship of the Second Directorate of GUSIMZ and USIA, or of the First Directorate and USIG, i.e., it appeared as the Moscow office of a Soviet organization located abroad. Offices of the Eighth Directorate were heavily guarded by MVD sentries armed with submachine guns. A special policy of passes and security checks was enforced with regard to employees and visitors of the Eighth Directorate. It was difficult to enter the GUSIMZ building in Moscow since the entire area was guarded

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and passes were rigorously checked; yet all this was nothing compared to the security regulations prescribed for the Eighth Directorate whose activities were kept in strictest secrecy. As an example of the secrecy surrounding the Eighth Directorate operations, [] one incident which shows the extent to which this secrecy was carried. At the end of 1951 []

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[] a young girl working in the Eighth Directorate applied for Komsomol membership. The decision had to be made at a meeting of the Komsomol organization of GUSIMZ where the applicant was required to describe her biography and answer all questions asked by Komsomol members. However, in this particular case, as soon as one of the members requested that the girl relate her biography, an unidentified person sitting in the back of the meeting room stood up and interrupted the question by saying, "It's all right comrades, the biography of this applicant is all right; there is no need to discuss it". When someone asked the applicant to state where she worked and the type of job she was doing, the same unidentified person answered, "The Eighth Directorate". When the question concerning the nature of her work was repeated, the inquisitive Komsomol member received a scornful glance from the girl's protector in answer, which made him blush because of his tactlessness and unjustified curiosity. After that there was no further questioning and the girl was accepted unanimously.

3. Wismut A. G. organizations abroad were referred to as "departments" (ob"yekty). []

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[] there was no Wismut ob"yekt in Austria. There was one such department in Germany in Chemnitz. In 1951 the head of this department was General Major MAL'TSEV. The name Wismut was never used in conversation. In Chemnitz this organization was always referred to as "MAL'TSEV's Economy" (Khozyzstvo Mal'tseva).

4.

[] the plant's manpower consisted entirely of Soviet military personnel []

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[] the Zwickau plant manufactured some kind of equipment for geological exploration of uranium ore. []

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[] a commission from Moscow came to inspect production in the plant and wanted to test one piece of manufactured equipment. The place where the equipment had to be tested was located very close to the US Zone of Germany, and soldiers carrying this apparatus lost their way and went into the US Zone. They were stopped by a West German border patrol or an American patrol, but succeeded in destroying the equipment before the patrol could obtain it. []

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[] The area where plant employees lived in Zwickau was off limits to Germans.

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5.

[REDACTED]

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6. The salaries of the employees of the Eighth Directorate of GUSIMZ were 25% higher than other GUSIMZ salaries. In addition to this, the employees of the Eighth Directorate in Germany had their own stores with practically all goods priced exceedingly low.

[REDACTED]

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7. In 1952 USIA procured some sand and cement for construction purposes for Wismut A. G. in Germany.

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] it is quite possible that there were numerous USIA - Wismut transactions carried on through DWV.

8. [REDACTED] the GUSIMZ Instructions for Classified Correspondence (Instruktsiya po vedeniyu sekretnogo deloproizvodstva) had a special paragraph specifying that all correspondence dealing with Wismut A. G., or even mentioning the name of Wismut, had to be classified secret.

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[REDACTED]

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